

## TWENTIETH CENTURY CHINA

**HIST 366/2**

LEC. A

**WINTER, 2009**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Martin Singer

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**CLASS HOURS:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:45-13:00 Room H611

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesdays, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM and by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course focuses on China in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a momentous period of transition from millennia of dynastic rule to the China of today. The first half of the course examines the revolutionary upheavals and foreign pressures that wracked China until the end of the Civil War in 1949. The second half of the course looks at the history of the People's Republic of China, first under the leadership of Chairman Mao Zedong and then since his death in 1976.

### **COURSE WEBSITE:**

The course website is accessible through your Concordia portal and is an integral part of the course. There students will find both the course syllabus and lecture schedule that have been distributed in class and a list of topically arranged selected readings. As well, outlines of each week's lecture will be posted on the website immediately after each lecture is delivered. Finally, the course website contains a message board for course-related matters.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, W. W. Norton, 1999)

Pei-kai Cheng and Michael Lestz, *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection* (W. W. Norton, 1999)

Both books are available in the Concordia Bookstore and both books are required reading.

### **EXAMINATIONS:**

There will be two written examinations in this course. A mid-term examination will be held during class time on Wednesday February 18. The format of the final examination will be confirmed by mid-January.

## **CRITICAL ESSAY:**

Each student is required to prepare and submit a critical essay on an aspect of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese history in addition to writing the mid-term and final examinations. Students should look initially at the list of suggested reading topics that is posted on the course website. Those students who wish to pursue other topics or substitute readings other than those specified in the posted reading list must consult with and receive written approval from the instructor. Each student is expected to read at least four books on the theme selected and to produce a short (10-15 page) critical essay based on the readings. The essay must be computer printed and must be submitted no later than Monday March 16 at the beginning of class. Late papers will not be accepted without medical certification.

## **ACADEMIC CONDUCT:**

Concordia University has very clear guidelines as to what constitutes academic misconduct, including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation, falsification, multiple submission and/or theft. Students should familiarize themselves with the provisions of the “Code of Academic Conduct” including the penalties that apply. A summary of the Code, as well as a link to the full document, may be found on the History Department website at <http://history.concordia.ca/ungradcode.html>.

## **GRADING:**

The grading distribution will be as follows: mid-term – 25%, paper – 25%, final – 50%. Students should consult <http://history.concordia.ca/ungradgrading.html> to familiarize themselves with the History Department’s grading norms for undergraduate courses.

## **SHAC:**

Students of History Association of Concordia represents all undergraduate students registered in one or more history classes at Concordia. It organizes social and academic events; publishes the undergraduate journal *Historiae*; and runs a peer tutoring program. For information on volunteering, getting help with classes, getting published, or for upcoming events, check their website at: <http://alcor.concordia.ca/~shac/index.html> (or access through the History Department site), or stop by their office for free coffee (LB-620.2). They can be reached at [shacconcordia@yahoo.com](mailto:shacconcordia@yahoo.com).

**20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY CHINA**  
**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS**  
**WINTER, 2009**

<u>WEEK:</u>	<u>LECTURE TOPIC:</u>	<u>READINGS (Chapters)</u>
January 5	Course Orientation	
January 7/12	Dynastic Disintegration, 1900-1912	Spence 11, C & L 11
January 14/19	China under the Warlords	Spence 12, C & L 12
January 21/26	The May Fourth Movement	Spence 13, C & L 13
January 28/2	The Revolutionary 1920s	Spence 14, C & L 14
February 4/9	The Guomindang Decade, 1928-37	Spence 15-16, C & L 15-16
February 11/16:	The Sino-Japanese War, 1937-45	Spence 17, C & L 17
February 18	Mid-term Examination	
February 23/25	Study Week (no classes)	
March 2/4	Civil War in China, 1945-1949	Spence 18, C & L 18
March 9/11 March 16/18	China under Mao Zedong	Spence 19-23, C & L 19-23
March 23/25 March 30/1	China since Mao Zedong	Spence 24-27, C & L 24-27
April 6/8	Perspectives on 20 <sup>th</sup> Century China	